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Palestinians on List Of Uganda Passports

Associated Press

A list of 27 Palestinians, who allegedly were issued passports by Uganda has been examined by the Central Intelligence Agency and appears to be genuine, a Senate subcommittee disclosed yesterday.

Among those on the list, according to Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), is a known member of AP Fatah, the terrorist organization. Committee sources refused to identify him, but said he is known to have taken part in terrorist activities.

Church made his document public as his subcommittee on foreign economic policy heard witnesses urge the United States to sever all remaining commercial and diplomatic ties with Uganda because of Gen. Idi Amin's policies of genocide, torture and terror.

Amin's regime has been accused of collaborating with Palestinian and other terrorist groups, primarily in actions against Israel.

The CIA, in confirming the apparent authenticity of the list, did not comment on Ugandan activities. But William C. Harrop, a deputy assistant secretary of state, testified, "We have no evidence that as of now they [the Ugandans] are supporting international terrorism."

Committee sources refused to say how the list was acquired except that it was from a "non-U.S. source."

Included are the names of 11 persons who allegedly hold diplomatic passports, which usually enable bearers to avoid routine immigration and customs regulations.

The list purportedly was prepared by the Ugandan Internal Affairs Ministry's passport office for the secretary of internal affairs, according to a Feb. 6, 1978, cover letter describing it as "an up-to-date list of Uganda passports issued to Palestinians."

Church asked the CIA whether the document was genuine and whether any of those listed were known mem-

bers of the Palestine Liberation Organization or "any other radical Palestinian group."

CIA Director Stansfield Turner replied that "as far as this agency is able to determine, the document ... is a copy of an authentic Ugandan government document." He said the passports appear genuine, and one individual named was known to have traveled on the passport listed.

Turner said the CIA had no other information on the use of Ugandan passports, but said "many North African and Middle Eastern nations" regard Palestinians as stateless persons and issue passports "that enable them to travel freely, without necessarily revealing that they are Palestinians."

While sources would not identify the known terrorist on the list, they confirmed a man listed as holding a diplomatic passport, Khaled Mohammed el-Shekh, is the PLO's Kampala representative.

The United States has no diplomatic mission in Uganda. Thomas P. Melady, former ambassador to Uganda, said the presence of a Ugandan mission here enables Amin to spy on Ugandan exiles in the United States and then persecute their relatives at home.

Harrop said that despite the State Department's condemnation of Amin, the department thinks the Ugandan mission is useful for the interests of the 100 or so Americans in Uganda.